Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-127. Please add new claims 128-173. The Claim Listing below will replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-127. (Cancelled)

128.   (New) A system for managing distribution of viewable data objects, the system comprising:

a plurality of servers for storing viewable data objects, the servers including

local servers, each local server being in communication with at least one of a plurality of viewer receivers; and

storage servers, each storage server being in communication with selected local servers;

a content manager in communication with each of the servers, the content manager being

configured to cause selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of

expected demand for the viewable data objects by the selected servers and

at least one of

available bandwidth associated with the selected servers, and

available storage capacity associated with the selected servers.

129. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause transmission of a viewable data object from a first local server to a second local server.

130. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a first storage server to transmit a viewable data object to a second storage server.

131. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a server to receive meta-data associated with a viewable data object, the meta-data including information about the viewable data object.

132. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a server to receive information associated with a cost associated with viewing a viewable data object.

133. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a server to receive state data associated with a viewable data object, the state data being indicative of a restriction against viewing the viewable data object.

134. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a server to receive information indicative of whether a viewable data object is to be made available for viewing.

135. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a server to receive information indicative of whether a viewable data object is to be made unavailable for viewing.

136. (New) The system of claim 133, wherein the content manager is configured to cause a change in the state data associated with a viewable data object, the state data being stored on a server.

137. (New)The system of claim 136, wherein the content manager is configured to provide a server with an instruction for changing state data stored on that server and a schedule for specifying an event for triggering execution of the instruction.

138. (New) The system of claim 137, wherein the content manager is configured to provide a server with an instruction for causing the state data associated with a viewable data object to switch between an active state, in which the viewable data object is available for viewing, and an inactive state in which the viewable data object is not available for viewing.

139. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein each local server is configured to

receive, from a viewer receiver, a request for viewing a viewable data object;

determine that the local server lacks a copy of the viewable data object;

transmit a request for the viewable data object to a storage server; and

transmit, to the viewer receiver, information indicative of an expected delay associated with retrieving the viewable data object from the storage server.

140. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein each storage server is configured to be programmable by the content manager, and wherein the content manager is configured to

program a selected storage server to control distribution of viewable data objects by the

selected storage server.

141.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein each of the local servers is configured

to detect that a first viewable data object has a lower priority than a second viewable

data object; and

to delete the first viewable data object, thereby freeing space to store the second viewable

data object.

142.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to define a

logical grouping of viewable data objects and to manage the logical grouping as a single

unit.

143.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is configured to update

accessibility of a viewable data object in response to an occurrence of an event.

144.   (New) The system of claim 133, wherein the content manager is configured to

receive viewer statistics from a local server, and to selectively alter the state data at least

in part on the basis of the viewer statistics.

145.   (New) The system of claim 133, wherein the content manager is configured to

receive first viewer statistics from the local servers;

receive second viewer statistics from the storage servers; and

selectively alter the state data at least in part on the basis of the first and second viewer statistics.

146.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content server is configured to cause selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of popularity of the viewable data objects.

147.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content server is configured to cause selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of demographic information associated with the local servers.

148.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content server is configured to cause selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of revenue associated with viewing the viewable data object.

149.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager comprises a distributed processing system.

150.   (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the content manager is integrated into a storage server.

151.   (New) A method for managing distribution of viewable data objects, the method comprising:

storing sets of viewable data objects on a plurality of servers, the servers including local servers, each of which is in communication a set of viewer receivers, and storage servers, each of which is in communication with a set of local servers;

determining an expected demand for a viewable data object at a selected server;

determining at least one of an available bandwidth associated with the selected servers and available storage capacity associated with the selected server;

causing a selected viewable data object to be provided to the selected server at least in part on the basis of the expected demand and at least one of the available bandwidth and the available storage capacity.

152. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing transmission of a viewable data object from a first local server to a second local server.

153. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a first storage server to transmit a viewable data object to a second storage server.

154. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a server to receive information about the viewable data object.

155. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a server to receive information representative of a cost associated with viewing a viewable data object.

156. (New) .The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a server to receive state data associated with a viewable data object, the state data being indicative of a restriction against viewing the viewable data object.

157.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a server to receive
information indicative of whether a viewable data object is to be made available for
viewing.

158.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing a server to receive
information indicative of whether a viewable data object is to be made unavailable for
viewing.

159.   (New) The method of claim 156, further comprising causing a change in the state data
associated with a viewable data object, the state data being stored on a server.

160.   (New) The method of claim 159, further comprising providing a server with an
instruction for changing state data stored on that server and a schedule for specifying an
event for triggering execution of the instruction.

161.   (New) The method of claim 160, further comprising providing a server with an
instruction for causing the state data associated with a viewable data object to switch
between an active state, in which the viewable data object is available for viewing, and an
inactive state in which the viewable data object is not available for viewing.

162.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising

receiving a request for viewing a viewable data object from a viewer receiver;

determining that the local server lacks a copy of the viewable data object;

transmitting a request for the viewable data object to a storage server; and

transmitting, to the viewer receiver, information indicative of an expected delay

associated with retrieving the viewable data object.

163.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising remotely programming a selected

storage server to control distribution of viewable data objects by the, selected storage

server.

164.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising

detecting that a first viewable data object has a lower priority than a second viewable data

object; and

deleting the first viewable data object to create free space; and

storing the second viewable data object in the free space.

165.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising defining a logical grouping of

viewable data objects, and transmitting the logical grouping to a selected server as a

single unit.

166.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising updating accessibility of a viewable

data object in response to an occurrence of an event.

167.   (New) The method of claim 156, further comprising:

receiving viewer statistics from a local server;

and selectively altering the state data at least in part on the basis of the viewer statistics.

168.   (New) The method of claim 156, further comprising:

receiving first viewer statistics from the local servers;

receiving second viewer statistics from the storage servers; and

selectively altering the state data at least in part on the basis of the first and second viewer statistics.

169.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of popularity of the viewable data objects.

170.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of demographic information associated with the local servers.

171.   (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising causing selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of revenue associated with viewing the viewable data object.

172.   (New) A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon software for executing the method of claim 151.

173.   (New) A system for managing distribution of viewable data objects, the system comprising:

a content manager in communication with each of a plurality of servers, each of which

stores viewable data objects, the plurality of servers including local servers and storage servers, each local server being in communication with at least one of a plurality of viewer receivers and each storage server being in communication with selected local servers, the content manager being configured to cause selected viewable data objects to be provided to selected servers at least in part on the basis of

expected demand for the viewable data objects by the selected servers and at least one of

available bandwidth associated with the selected servers, and

available storage capacity associated with the selected servers.